Amendments to the Claims:

Amend the claims as follows.

1. (Original) Apparatus for processing a communication received by at least two (2) antenna assemblies, said communication being comprised of sequentially transmitted slots of equal length, said apparatus comprising:

a channel estimator;

first and second units coupled to the channel estimator for determining signal quality based on at least one of history, recent channel estimation and optimization--;--

a switch responsive to the signal quality that selectively couples slots from said antenna assemblies to a common input of said channel estimator, wherein the slots from each antenna assembly are coupled to said common input in a uniform sequence responsive to a first quality output, wherein said switch couples outputs of the antenna assemblies to said common unit in a non-uniform sequence responsive to a second quality output different from said first quality output;

wherein switching in said non-uniform sequence comprises forwarding at least two consecutive slots of one of said two antenna assemblies to said common input before forwarding a single slot from the other of said two antenna assemblies.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein signal quality outputs of said first and second units are combined ~~in a combining means~~.

3-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 comprising:

~~means for selectively coupling~~ wherein the communications received by each antenna assembly is coupled to said channel estimator.

10-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) Apparatus for processing a communication received by at least two (2) antenna assemblies, said communication being comprised of sequentially transmitted slots of equal length, said apparatus comprising:

a channel estimator;

switch means for selectively coupling slots from said antenna assemblies to a common input of said channel estimator in a given pattern;

first and second units coupled to said channel estimator for determining signal quality based on at least one of history, recent channel estimation and optimization--;--

a switch responsive to the signal quality that selectively couples slots from said antenna assemblies to a common input of said channel estimator, wherein the slots from each antenna assembly are coupled to said common input in a uniform sequence responsive to a first quality output, wherein said switch couples outputs of the antenna assemblies to said common unit in a non-uniform sequence responsive to a second quality output different from said first quality output;

wherein switching in said non-uniform sequence comprises forwarding at least two consecutive slots of one of said two antenna assemblies to said common input before forwarding a single slot from the other of said two antenna assemblies.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said switching means alters said given pattern responsive to a signal quality value.

16. (Currently amended) A method for selectively coupling a communication received by at least two (2) antenna assemblies to a channel estimator, said communication being comprised of sequentially transmitted slots of equal length, comprising:

said channel estimator:

estimating channel response; and

a switch:

controlling the switching of the communication of said two (2) antenna assemblies responsive to said channel response--;--

wherein switching in said non-uniform sequence comprises forwarding at least two consecutive slots of one of said two (2) antenna assemblies to said common input before forwarding a single slot from the other of said two (2) antenna assemblies.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16 wherein ~~first and second combining means generate~~ first and second quality outputs are generated responsive to said channel response and at least one of history, recent channel estimation and optimization; and

combine said quality outputs.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the combined output provides a signal quality output.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

said switch:

selectively coupling slots from said antenna assemblies to said channel estimator in a uniform sequence responsive to a first quality output.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said switch:

selectively couples outputs of the two antenna assemblies in a non-uniform sequence responsive to a second quality output different from said first quality output.

21-23. (Canceled)